

had danced and sung till exhausted, the chief directed his people to keep no trace of the gold-god anywhere about their persons or in their houses. He advised them to throw it all into the hay, or bury it deep in the earth, or hide it in the depths of caverns; for said he, "If a bit of the gold-god were inside of you yet would the white-strangers find it." All this they did but it did not save the simple people. In their insatiable thirst for gold, the Spaniards hounded the Indians through forest and jungle, swamp and desert, until in a few years all were captured or slain, and the poor old chieftain himself was burned at the stake. But this was long after Columbus' day. He reached this coast late in October of 1492, and spent five weeks searching vainly for "Bohio," a place where some Indians had told him he would find plenty of gold. Not finding it, he sailed away on the 4th of December, steering straight across the channel for the cloud-like mountain of Haiti—just across the narrow "Windward Passage." But it was owing to his glowing description of "Puerto Santo," as he named what is now known as Baracoa Bay—that Don Diego Velazquez came here a few years later and founded the town. He Christened it, Nuestra Senora de la Ascension, appointed civil officers, created a bishopric, and established his own residence here; but somehow the place never amounted to much, although a more favorable site cannot be found in Cuba than the locality which the great discoverer spoke of as "The most beautiful land eyes ever beheld." On all Spanish maps the town is still named in honor of Our Lady of the Ascension; but everybody calls it Baricoa.

One of the funniest sights you will see here is that of a country man coming to town astride the back of a cow or an ox, perhaps with two or three of his family seated alongside, covering the animal from horns to tail, one member of the party holding aloft a palm-leaf for shade. The roads are often too heavy for carts, and the farmer who is not rich enough to own a horse and volante, or a mule, has only to throw a sheep-skin on the back of his cow, run a cord through her nostrils—and the family vehicle is ready, and as good as that used by most of his neighbors.

FANNIE BRIGHAM WARD.

"ARIZONA."

Thirty-six miles long, four feet deep and twenty-five feet wide, are the dimensions of our big canal, the survey of which is just completed and the profile and maps accepted by the board of directors. This water supply will cover a continuous series of valleys and table lands from its head waters at the narrows of the Gila river, to its terminus below Pima. At least 50,000 acres more land will be brought under cultivation; considerable of this is yet not filed upon and that which is taken will be divided up and make farms for as many more.

Many inquiries have been made of me of late. I could not do justice by personal letter, I have asked them to wait and I would answer all at once through the columns of the "Deseret News." Now, with your kind permission, I will proceed:

The questions as they are propounded and answered will serve to get at facts in a clear and concise manner.

How far are you from railroad communication?

We have a system passing through-out the valley connecting with all the leading towns and cities; this road, the G. V. and G. N., connects with the S.

P. R.R. at Bowie, 48 miles distant. A continental route, prompt connections are made all over the United States on the east with the Santa Fe and R. G. systems connecting with U. P., O. R. S. L. and all Utah and Idaho lines on the west through California. It costs a nominal sum more by way of California, but it pays to make at least one trip west. Eastern roads take you through the scenic route of R. G. and Santa Fe, through Colorado and New Mexico. The sum of from \$35 to \$45 will land you in the heart of our country. Apply to W. C. Spence, Box B, Salt Lake City, or to me for transportation. We have a daily mail, telegraphic system with all the world, and prospects of a telephone system connecting our leading towns soon.

What is the topography—level or undulating?

Situated in the southeast of Arizona we are neighbors of both old and New Mexico. The Gila River heads back in New Mexico, and as it crosses the line the valley commences to widen, until we have a series of settlements nearly 90 miles long, one settlement, however, being 60 miles from the others, which are grouped in the radius of about 30 miles; our principal settlements are from three to five miles apart. Our valley will average possibly 10 miles wide, the thickly settled part is fully 40 miles long. There is no limit to land, the question is, water.

The natural slope from the mountains on either side of our valley is about right for irrigation, and there is an average fall down the valley of about ten feet to the mile. The country is to some extent undulating. This, however, is more of an artificial nature than natural, caused by washes and the piling of sand and earth about the roots of trees and shrubs as is natural to all desert countries. Outside of grubbing, but little labor is necessary to prepare land for irrigation.

We are something like 3,000 feet above sea level, the mountains on either side a thousand feet higher and are filled with saw timbers and crystal streams, though not sufficient water for the accommodation of more than two or three ranches at present.

What is your chief water supply?

The Gila river, which is estimated at about 325 cubic inches per minute, at its lowest. It is a perpetual stream, cannot be drained, immediately below each dam, still a good stream runs, and at the lower end of the valley still there is a good sized stream. We have some flowing wells and springs. Everybody has a good well ranging from 35 to 60 feet deep.

Any flowing wells, depth, etc?

I visited one of these wells lately which is about 200 feet deep, and runs about 50 gallons per minute; is back at the foot hills of Graham mountain. There is no reason why we should not have many others. Our St. David ward, on the San Pedro river, 110 miles from here, has many, which are bringing that settlement out. The people were about discouraged when an earthquake shook up the earth, opened up and sent water to the surface; since that time many wells have been driven and all prove to be good.

Not all the land located under the various canals here is used. There is fully one-third of the land under them still not under cultivation. We find as is demonstrated in Utah, the more water used the more there is to be used. Our large canal will run close to the foot hills of the Graham mountains and will make a series of reservoirs of inestimable value to our valleys, causing the low lands to get wet, springs to break out that formerly run, but have been dry during this droughty season, and will husband water of considerable quantities. Our driest season is usually the latter part of May

and extending into July. Rains commence usually in the early part of the latter month; on the 3rd of the present month we had a beautiful rain, and have had several rains since, and one or two good soakings.

What are your money getters?

Everything we raise, and we can raise everything but tropical fruits. Baled hay (lucern) brings from \$5 to \$19 per ton, ranging in price according to the season and market, we are situated in the heart of a mining district, camps from five to ninety miles away. In the spring Irish potatoes bring as high as 2½ cents per pound, wheat, corn and everything brings a good price, for we cannot supply the demand. A farmer of Thatcher on the 3rd of July just past made \$80.60 on one wagon load of watermelons and only hauled them four miles. Butter brings from 20 to 50 cents, creamery never less than 30 cents, eggs seldom less than 20 cents, and a continuous demand for all we can get. There is not space to enumerate more; suffice it to say, it is the best local market I ever saw for a farming district outside of being close to such cities as Salt Lake. When you come to realize the fertility of the soil and the length of the season, a small farm is a fortune. We raise five crops of lucern a year, and two crops of everything but fruit. I dug the last of my early crop of Irish potatoes a few days since, seventeen of which weighed fifteen pounds. We now have a patch about ready to dig from, as new potatoes, others to come on later, and in a few days will have to plant a fall crop. I have two or three crops of garden stuff and could have more if I had time to plant them. One reason of the land yielding so much is, the land is fertilized by the sediment from the Gila river during rainy season especially, it is as rich as the overflowing Nile. Bishop John Taylor of Pima raised fifty bushels of wheat on one acre of land, after harvest he soaked the land and put in corn and raised fifty bushels of corn the same year. Manure is a drug in the way, hardly used. Farms sixteen years in use are producing as heavy grain and other products as is desired, and in most of cases two or three crops. All over the valley grain is now threshed and corn and potatoes being planted on the same ground.

What is the cost of irrigation?

At present watering ground is rather expensive, the reason chiefly is, most of the canals are small and poorly constructed, the sediment accumulates, and it costs considerable to keep them clean, and the dams wash out so often during high water, but our large canal has head waters in the rock, will be built entirely on a scientific plan, availing ourselves of science and experience, when water is brought out through the canal of the Enterprise canal water will be reduced at least 50 per cent. We have now four or five good sized canals, but they are not far from the river bottom land, the Enterprise is so high it will soak up and bring about sub-irrigation, increase our water supply all over the valley and be the means of reducing to cultivation thousands of acres more of choice land.

Is there any government land to be located?

Yes, thousands of acres, but the question is, water. All the land below the canals now in use is located. It is estimated that there is 50,000 acres of choice land under the prospective enterprise, considerable of that lying nearest our towns is located there is much yet not taken. Water shares can be worked out on the canal,